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CENSUS OF ABORIGINALS - 30TH JUNE, 1938.

The Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson) has made available the following particulars obtained from the Census of Australian Aboriginals which was taken in all States of the Commonwealth on the 30th June, 1938.

With the assistance of the State Statisticians, the Protectors of Aboriginals and the Police an annual Census of the aboriginal population of Australia has been taken since the year 1924. Certain particulars had been ascertained before that date in some States, but an annual Census had not been attempted.

In previous reports, reference has been made to the difficulties of collection, in consequence of which the figures published in the following tables should not be taken as more than reliable estimates.

FULL-BLOOD ABORIGINALS.

The full-blood aboriginal population in Australia at the 30th June, 1938, was 51,379 persons of whom 28,132 or 54.8 per cent. were males and 23,247 or 45.2 per cent. were females. Adults numbered 40,487 and children 10,892.

The recorded numbers of the full-blood population remained fairly steady between 1921 and 1933 but in 1934 a complete check of most of the outlying districts of Western Australia and Northern Territory was responsible for a substantial revision of the figures for these areas and a decrease from 60,101 persons in 1933 to 54,848 in 1934 was recorded. Since 1934 a steady rate of decrease has been apparent. This decrease for the year ended 30th June, 1938 was 1,456 persons, or 2.8 per cent., males having decreased by 699 or 2.4 per cent. and females by 757 or 3.2 per cent.

In 1921 the aboriginal population consisted of 82.3 per cent. full-bloods and 17.7 per cent. half-castes. Since that year, owing to the steady decrease in the number of full-bloods and the rapid increase in the number of half-castes, the proportion of full-bloods has fallen to 67.5 per cent. whilst that of the half-caste population has risen to 32.5 per cent.

At the 30th June, 1938, there were 11,874 full-blood aboriginals in regular employment compared with 11,996 in 1937 and 10,925 in 1928. The principal industries in order of importance in which males are engaged are:- grazing, fishing, farming, domestic service, pearling, road construction and black tracking. The females are mainly engaged in domestic service.

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HALF-CASTE ABORIGINALS.

The half-caste aboriginal population of Australia at the 30th June, 1938 numbered 24,718 persons, an increase of 768 for the year. Of this total 12,962 or 52.4 per cent. were males and 11,756 or 47.6 per cent. were females. The number of half-caste aboriginals in each State was as follows:- New South Wales, 9,611 or 38.9 per cent., Queensland 6,461 or 26.1 per cent., Western Australia 4,602 or 18.6 per cent., South Australia 2,148 or 8.7 per cent., Northern Territory 907 or 3.7 per cent., Victoria 647 or 2.6 per cent., Tasmania 256 or 1.0 per cent. and Australian Capital Territory 86 or 0.4 per cent.

Since 1901 the half-caste aboriginals have more than trebled their numbers, having increased from 7,370 persons in that year to the present population of 24,718. The rate of growth has been consistently maintained, there being 10,113 in 1911, 12,630 in 1921 and 19,014 in 1931. Since 1901 the half-caste aboriginals have been increasing at a consistently higher average annual rate than the white population.

CENSUS OF ABORIGINALS - 30TH JUNE, 1938.

AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL AND HALF-CASTE ABORIGINAL POPULATION.

1921 TO 1938.

30th June	Full-blood				Half-caste				Total Aboriginal Population
	Adults	Children	Total	Percentage on Total Aboriginal Population	Adults	Children	Total	Percentage on Total Aboriginal Population	
				%				%	
1921	46,723	12,048	58,771	82.31	7,931	4,699	12,630	17.69	71,401
1928	48,044	12,619	60,663	78.29	9,763	7,055	16,818	21.71	77,481
1929	49,078	12,723	61,801	78.80	9,450	7,179	16,629	21.20	78,430
1930	49,167	12,567	61,734	77.62	10,213	7,584	17,797	22.38	79,531
1931	46,676	12,225	58,901	75.60	10,923	8,091	19,014	24.40	77,915
1932	47,345	12,374	59,719	75.68	10,891	8,305	19,196	24.32	78,915
1933	47,321	12,780	60,101	75.53	10,999	8,468	19,467	24.47	79,568
1934	42,955	11,893	54,848	71.93	12,040	9,359	21,399	28.07	76,247
1935	42,492	11,886	54,378	70.44	12,800	10,017	22,817	29.56	77,195
1936	41,950	11,748	53,698	69.59	13,137	10,324	23,461	30.41	77,159
1937	41,306	11,529	52,835	68.81	13,596	10,354	23,950	31.19	76,785
1938	40,487	10,892	51,379	67.52	13,988	10,730	24,718	32.48	76,097

CENSUS OF ABORIGINALS - 30TH JUNE, 1938
FULL-BLOOD ABORIGINALS.

State or Territory	Adults					Children				Total Full-blood Aboriginals
	Nomadic	In Regular Employment	In Supervised Camps (a)	Other	Total Adults	Nomadic	In Supervised Camps	Other	Total Children	
MALES										
New South Wales ..	27	170	148	41	386	5	75	32	112	498
Victoria ..	1	27	3	10	41	-	8	8	16	57
Queensland ..	779	2,968	1,259	220	5,226	81	1,191	263	1,535	6,761
South Australia ..	482	297	35	52	866	224	8	85	317	1,183
Western Australia	6,343	2,750	473	161	9,727	1,501	237	192	1,930	11,657
Tasmania ..	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Territory	3,075	2,055	1,043	151	6,324	996	625	30	1,651	7,975
Total Males:	10,707	8,267	2,961	636	22,571	2,807	2,144	610	5,561	28,132
FEMALES										
New South Wales ..	11	52	111	53	227	1	56	27	84	311
Victoria ..	-	4	12	7	23	-	5	7	12	35
Queensland ..	689	725	2,092	337	3,843	101	1,218	237	1,556	5,399
South Australia ..	421	96	27	93	637	178	8	75	261	898
Western Australia	5,904	1,827	517	146	8,394	1,420	230	181	1,831	10,225
Tasmania ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Territory	2,428	903	1,366	95	4,792	906	661	20	1,587	6,379
Total Females:	9,453	3,607	4,125	731	17,916	2,606	2,178	547	5,331	23,247
PERSONS										
New South Wales ..	38	222	259	94	613	6	131	59	196	809
Victoria ..	1	31	15	17	64	-	13	15	28	92
Queensland ..	1,468	3,693	3,351	557	9,069	182	2,409	500	3,091	12,160
South Australia ..	903	393	62	145	1,503	402	16	160	578	2,081
Western Australia	12,247	4,577	990	307	18,121	2,921	467	373	3,761	21,882
Tasmania ..	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Territory	5,503	2,958	2,409	246	11,116	1,902	1,286	50	3,238	14,354
Total Persons:	20,160	11,874	7,086	1,367	40,487	5,413	4,322	1,157	10,892	51,379

(a) This figure does not include those living in Supervised Camps who were in regular employment.

Note:- The figures for Western Australia include 10,000 ful-blood aboriginals estimated to live outside the influence of Europeans. These have been distributed as follows:- 4,000 male adults; 4,000 female adults; 1,000 male children and 1,000 female children.

CENSUS OF ABORIGINALS - 30TH JUNE, 1938

HALF-CASTE ABORIGINALS.

State or Territory	Adults					Children				Total Half-caste Aboriginals
	Nomadic	In Regular Employment	In Supervised Camps (a)	Other	Total Adults	Nomadic	In Supervised Camps	Other	Total Children	
MALES										
New South Wales ..	181	1,752	618	451	3,002	103	922	1,134	2,159	5,161
Victoria ..	5	114	4	72	195	-	65	81	146	341
Queensland ..	9	1,431	122	343	1,905	7	737	670	1,414	3,319
South Australia ..	173	344	99	44	660	162	185	83	430	1,090
Western Australia ..	222	804	211	137	1,374	257	443	308	1,008	2,382
Tasmania ..	-	13	-	74	87	-	-	54	54	141
Australian Capital Territory	-	37	-	-	37	-	9	-	9	46
Northern Territory ..	3	258	2	1	264	6	174	38	218	482
Total Males:	593	4,753	1,056	1,122	7,524	535	2,535	2,368	5,438	12,962
FEMALES										
New South Wales ..	101	715	711	873	2,400	100	875	1,075	2,050	4,450
Victoria ..	2	30	49	79	160	-	74	72	146	306
Queensland ..	5	768	459	505	1,737	7	710	688	1,405	3,142
South Australia ..	212	82	189	95	578	180	216	84	480	1,058
Western Australia ..	192	497	371	197	1,257	237	451	275	963	2,220
Tasmania ..	-	2	-	67	69	-	-	46	46	115
Australian Capital Territory	-	26	-	-	26	-	14	-	14	40
Northern Territory ..	5	179	8	45	237	6	136	46	188	425
Total Females:	517	2,299	1,787	1,861	6,464	530	2,476	2,286	5,292	11,756
PERSONS										
New South Wales ..	282	2,467	1,329	1,324	5,402	203	1,797	2,209	4,209	9,611
Victoria ..	7	144	53	151	355	-	139	153	292	647
Queensland ..	14	2,199	581	848	3,642	14	1,447	1,358	2,819	6,461
South Australia ..	385	426	288	139	1,238	342	401	167	910	2,148
Western Australia ..	414	1,301	582	334	2,631	494	894	583	1,971	4,602
Tasmania ..	-	15	-	141	156	-	-	100	100	256
Australian Capital Territory	-	63	-	-	63	-	23	-	23	86
Northern Territory ..	8	437	10	46	501	12	310	84	406	907
Total Persons:	1,110	7,052	2,843	2,983	13,988	1,065	5,011	4,654	10,730	24,718

(a) This figure does not include those living in Supervised Camps who were in regular employment.